

BEFORE THE DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE OF UTAH

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IN THE MATTER OF TENTATIVE	:	
DECISION TO APPROVE THE LARGE	:	NOTICE OF TENTATIVE
MINING NOTICE OF INTENTION FOR	:	DECISION TO APPROVE
STAR STONE QUARRIES, INC.,	:	
COTTON THOMAS MINE	:	NO. M/003/024
BOX ELDER COUNTY, UTAH	:	

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THE STATE OF UTAH TO ALL OPERATORS, TAKERS OF PRODUCTION,
MINERAL AND ROYALTY OWNERS, AND PARTICULARLY ALL PERSONS
INTERESTED IN SECTIONS 16, 17, 20, 21 AND 28, TOWNSHIP 14 NORTH, RANGE 17
WEST, SLBM, BOX ELDER COUNTY, UTAH.

Notice is hereby given by the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining of its tentative decision to approve Star Stone Quarries, Inc.'s Large Mining Operations Notice of Intention for the Cotton Thomas Mine. Mining activities will affect the following area: portions of Sections 16, 17, 20, 21 and 28, Township 14 North, Range 17 West, SLBM, Box Elder County, Utah.

Star Stone Quarries, Inc. has submitted a permit application to expand their existing small mining operation to a large mine status. The operator will employ the following mining and reclamation techniques on approximately 66.32 acres of privately owned land.

During Operations:

Salvageable soil over the proposed quarry and waste dump areas will be stripped from the surface using a D8 dozer or excavator bucket and stockpiled prior to mining. A hydraulic excavator is used to extract the stone from the quarry. The stone is distributed to workers on the quarry dump and pad to process. Stone is split by hand to uniform size and stacked on pallets for shipping. Unusable material is placed on the waste dumps. Quarry cuts will be approximately ten feet deep. Equipment used includes a D-8 bulldozer, hydraulic excavator, two-yard front end loader, and two dump trucks. A 2,000 gallon fuel tank is located on site. It has a secondary containment structure with 110% capacity of the fuel tank.

After Operations:

All disturbed areas will be reclaimed excluding three road segments and the camp area which have been granted variances to remain for the postmining land use and property access. All highwalls (except at the Autumn Gold quarry) will be reduced to a slope of 45 degrees or less. Dump slopes will be graded to a slope of 2 - 2.5 h:1v. Pit floors will be left in a free-draining condition. Other areas and roads regraded to approximate original contours. Road segments

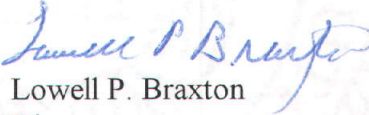
not requiring regrading will be ripped to eliminate compaction. Quarry floors will be covered with 3 feet of subsoil material and dumps will be covered with 16 inches of fines (amended with compost to support vegetation). Two inches of topsoil will be spread over the regraded areas prior to seeding. All areas will be broadcast seeded with an approved seed mix designed to meet the intended post mining land use of grazing and wildlife habitat.

The person representing the company is Mr. Lon Thomas; Phone 262-4300. Star Stone Quarries, Inc., is fulfilling obligations under the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act of 1975, Utah Code Ann. §40-8-18.

Any person or agency aggrieved by this tentative decision to issue approval is hereby requested to submit written protest within thirty (30) days of the date of publication to Pamela Grubaugh-Littig, Associate Director of Mining, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, 1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210, Box 145801, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801, setting forth factual reasons for the complaint. If no responsive written protests are received by the Division within 30 days after the last date of publication, the tentative decision of the Division will be final.

DATED THIS 3rd day of November, 2000

STATE OF UTAH
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING


Lowell P. Braxton
Director

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Tentative Decision to Approve the Large Mining Notice of Intention for Star Stone Quarries, LLC's Cotton Thomas Mine to be sent via facsimile, electronic mail, or mailed by first class mail, postage prepaid, the 3rd day of November, 2000 to:

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